

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MONTRE 01912 212234Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 HA-05 /064 W
-----076323 212316Z /63

P 212210Z NOV 77

FM AMCONSUL MONTREAL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9699
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL QUEBEC PRIORITY
AMCONSUL TORONTO PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MONTREAL 1912

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT, CA
SUBJECT: QUEBEC LIBERALS REGAIN SPIRIT

REF: MONTREAL'S 1895

1. LIBERAL PARTY OF QUEBEC (LPQ) AT ITS WEEKEND CONVENTION
ADOPTED ESSENTIALLY MIDDLE-OF-THE-ROAD POSTURE, BUT IT WAS VIEWED
BY YOUNG PROGRESSIVES AS SHARP TURN TO THE RIGHT AND IS SO INTER-
PRETED BY SOME OF MEDIA.

2. LIVELIEST DEBATE SPARKED BY LANGUAGE ISSUE, WHICH NOT ONLY
SUBJECT OF WORKSHOP BUT TOOK ONE AND A HALF HOURS OF FINAL
PLENARY AND COULD HAVE FRACTURED PARTY UNITY. RESULTANT RESOLU-
TION A COMPROMISE: SPECIAL MEASURES (E.G. NO NON-ANGLOPHONES CAN
GO TO ENGLISH LANGUAGE SCHOOLS) ARE NECESSARY NOW BUT THIS IS
TRANSITORY PROBLEM AND PARTY WILL REVERT TO FREEDOM OF CHOICE
OPTION WHEN FRENCH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE DEEMED SECURE. THIS
ACCEPTABLE TO ALL SIDES FOR DIFFERING REASONS. BRYCE MACKASEY
FOUND THE "TRANSIENT" ELEMENT A VICTORY FOR THE FREEDOM OF CHOICE
WING; ONE "PROGRESSIVE" MEMBER OF YOUTH GROUP (MICHAEL GOLDBLOOM,
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MONTRE 01912 212234Z

SON OF MNA VICTOR GOLDBLOOM) FOUND DEFEAT OF IMMEDIATE FREEDOM OF
CHOICE A VICTORY FOR COMMON SENSE.

3. CONVENTION PROVIDED ENORMOUS PSYCHOLOGICAL BOOST TO LPQ.
ATTENDANCE OF 1500 EXPECTED, ACTUAL COUNT 2863 AT DOLS 25 EACH, OF
WHOM ALMOST 600 WERE FROM YOUTH WING. PARTY ELDERS AND YOUNGSTERS
ALL BUOYANT, WITH "NOW WE'RE ON THE COMEBACK TRAIL" INFECTIOUS

ATMOSPHERE PARTICULARLY EVIDENT AT FINAL PLENARY SESSION.

4. DESPITE ADVANCE TALK THAT CONVENTION WAS TO NAIL DOWN POLICIES NEW LEADER WOULD HAVE TO SUPPORT AND IMPLEMENT, RESOLUTION ON CONSTITUTIONAL TIE WITH REST OF CANADA CALLED FOR NEW LEADER (TO BE ELECTED DURING APRIL 14-15 CONVENTION) "TO SEEK A NEW CONSENSUS ON THE CANADIAN CONSTITUTIONAL REGIME WITH ALL CANADIANS OF GOOD WILL." THIS ISSUE TOO WAS HOTLY DEBATED RANGING FROM SOME FOR THE STATUS QUO TO EMPHASIZE DISTINCTION FROM PQ TO THOSE WANTING MAJOR SPECIFIC CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES (SEE PARA 1-E REFTEL).

5. PARTY ALSO ELECTED NEW PRESIDENT, LARRY (LAWRENCE) WILSON. AN ATTORNEY, INDEPENDENTLY WEALTHY, AND, DESPITE NAME, A FRANCOPHONE, WILSON CONSIDERED INDEPENDENT OF ALL WOULD-BE LEADERS AND SAYS HE SEES ROLE AS "ORGANIZATIONAL." HE IS EXPECTED BE MUCH MORE LOW KEY THAN CONTROVERSIAL PREDECESSOR BEN PAYEUR. (HE WILL ALSO SAVE THE PARTY SOME MONEY, ESTIMATED AT ABOUT DOLS 50,000, AS HE IS REFUSING DOLS 30,000 SALARY PLUS EXPENSES.)

6. CORRIDOR CONVERSATIONS WITH NUMEROUS PARTY PRO'S REVOLVED LARGELY ON "NEXT LEADER" TOPIC, WITH VIEWS AS MIXED AS MIGHT BE EXPECTED. FOR SEVERAL, RAYMOND GARNEAU'S HOPES WENT DOWN THE DRAIN WITH DEFEAT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE HE WAS BACKING (GUY MORIN). OTHERS FEEL HE NOT TOO BADLY DAMAGED, HAD LOOKED AND SOUNDED GOOD AT WORKSHOPS, BUT, ACCORDING ONE, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MONTRE 01912 212234Z

MIGHT BE RE-THINKING WHETHER HE REALLY WANTS IT IN VIEW HIS PERSONAL ESTIMATE IT WILL TAKE ABOUT HALF MILLION DOLLARS TO MOUNT WINNING LEADERSHIP CAMPAIGN. (HE RECENTLY MADE A SUBSTANTIAL DOWN-PAYMENT IN THAT DIRECTION WITH A TWENTY-FIVE PAGE SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE HE SENT TO SOME 700 ADDRESSEES.) MANY FELT THAT GERARD D. LEVESQUE, WHO HAD THE CROWD ON ITS FEET REPEATEDLY DURING MUCH-TOO-LONG SUMMATION AT END, "WOULD BE ELECTED UNANIMOUSLY IF ELECTION TOMORROW." SINCE ELECTION NOT UNTIL APRIL HOWEVER, MANY FEEL THIS CONVENTION'S EUPHORIA MAY WEAR OFF BEFORE THEN DESPITE PRESENT LEG UP ON ALL OTHER POSSIBLES. CASTONGUAY HAS ALLEGEDLY DECIDED NOT TO BE CANDIDATE BUT WON'T MAKE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF STAND FOR ANOTHER TWO WEEKS AND COULD CHANGE MIND IN INTERIM. MICHEL ROBERT WHO, AS POLICY COMMISSION CHAIRMAN, DID SUPERB JOB OF SETTING UP AND RUNNING CONVENTION, ALSO CONSIDERED VIABLE AND, OFTEN, PREFERABLE CHOICE BUT SEEN BY OTHERS TO SUFFER FROM LACK OF PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE AS CANDIDATE. JEAN-PAUL L'ALLIER STRONG WITH YOUTH BUT CONSIDERED TOO FAR "LEFT" FOR MAJORITY OPTING FOR MORE CONSERVATIVE POSITIONS DURING THIS CONVENTION. ENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSE TO CLAUDE RYAN SEEN AS A "PLEASE CHANGE YOUR MIND" MESSAGE BY MANY. (THAT RESULT SEEMS UNLIKELY TO US.)

7. AIRGRAM FOLLOWS WITH DETAILS ON LESS CONTROVERSIAL BUT
NOT UNIMPORTANT RESOLUTIONS.
HARPER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROVINCE, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MONTRE01912
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770431-1074
Format: TEL
From: MONTREAL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771135/aaaabdsww.tcl
Line Count: 119
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 60b9b114-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MONTREAL 1895
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 507945
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: QUEBEC LIBERALS REGAIN SPIRIT
TAGS: PINT, CA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/60b9b114-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009